

The Clarion

The Newsletter of Kennewick First United Methodist Church
January 2012



Letter from Pastor Roger

With the announcement of my impending move to Tacoma, Lakewood UMC, at the end of January, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for six and a half good years of ministry among you. These years have been met with many blessings and accomplishments:

- preaching and leading worship in our beautiful historic sanctuary;
- enjoying the presence of my parents as they have been warmly welcomed in this congregation once again. They were members here in the late 1940's and early 50's when I was born and listed on the cradle roll here in my very first church over 60 years ago!
- dedicating the completion of the first phase of our new "Kids First" addition;
- seeing the front steps, stained glass windows, organ, and yes, even the sewer line restored;
- celebrating the "Miracle Sunday" accomplishment of the acquisition of three buses and eventually two tool trailers to compliment and expand our ministries;
- reaching out across the river to help Pasco First UMC transition into the new Hispanic "God's New Generation" UMC, and receiving a number of former Pasco First members into our church;
- supporting our youth in mission projects at a church camp in Montana, rebuilding a home in flood-ravaged Lewis County, and helping the poor of northern Mexico;
- seeing our volunteers in mission help in flood-ravaged areas of our own state, the Dakotas, and helping rebuild the Gulf Coast following hurricanes;
- serving across the Pacific to help build a church camp on the island of Hawaii;
- supporting the building of an orphanage in The Congo and offering continued financial support for orphans housed there;
- engaging in ministry with the Njukinjiru Methodist Church of Kenya and funding the building of a science facility at their church-supported public school;
- helping Ruby Ridge Dairy and Tri-City Laboratory employees improve their working conditions;
- chairing the Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Committee for The Tri-Cities Chaplaincy;
- enjoying the gifts of new staff;
- transitioning to two distinct worship services;
- receiving over 110 new adult members in addition to youth confirmands;
- baptizing children, youth, and adults;
- serving the sacrament of holy communion;
- conducting weddings;
- singing with the former 3 Cs and current Chancel Choirs;
- training our soon-to-be-commissioned new Stephen Ministers for quality care-giving to those in need of friendly counsel; and
- serving among so many committed and caring members who serve in our community in more ways than can easily be named.

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These are but a few of the many blessings I've enjoyed while being your pastor. Obviously there are many other blessings unmentioned here, but known to us and to God!

But as we know, there have been significant challenges as well.

- conducting funerals and ministering to those grieving the loss of members and friends, old and new;
- challenging one another theologically, and in areas of social justice, worship, and music;
- bidding farewell to beloved long-time staff;
- transitioning to two distinct worship services (yes, a blessing and a challenge!);
- raising funds to meet our growing and expanding ministries, and adjusting budget and programs to address declining giving by those frustrated, hurt, or discouraged by the many changes;
- communication, communication, communication;
- hearing the "concerns" of those troubled by all the changes or by my style of leadership;
- trying to grow a church when not everyone is on board with the demands of such growth;
- endeavoring in all ways to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

I leave you with many good memories and much appreciation for your work for Christ here in Kennewick. Thank you for your forgiveness of my blunders and for your understanding that all I have done was intended to glorify and promote the cause of Christ among us. Thank you for caring for Nancy and me, and receiving the gifts of ministry we have endeavored to faithfully offer. I trust that as each and all of us move into our respective futures we will hold each other in prayer and hope only the very best as God chooses to so bless us.

God be with you.

Roger

Special Charge Conference – January 5

The Rev. Derek McGuckin, pastor, Pasco, Riverview UMC, has been authorized by our District Superintendent, Rev. Mary Huycke, to conduct a special charge conference (The Administrative Council) for the purpose of setting the pastor's salary (per Book of Discipline), election of officers for 2012, and voting on a new administrative structure for KFUMC. The Council discussed this new structure in December and agreed to bring it to charge conference. The new structure will be a Council on Ministries and an Administrative Board. The Ad Board will be comprised of a Chair, Pastor, Trustee President, and Chairs of Finance and SPRC, along with the Lay Leader and Lay Member(s) of the Annual Conference. The Council will be the chairs of all the standing ministry and program committees and organizations within the church. This notice first appeared in Sunday's bulletin on December 18, which constituted the ten-day notice provision for a specially called conference.

These are remaining matters from our regular charge conference held earlier in the fall.

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Jr. High Rock-a-Thon - January 14-15, 2012

This month the Jr. UMY will be in full swing or should I say “rock” as they canvas the church congregation, their families, friends, relatives, coaches and teachers to get Rock-A-Thon donations. For those unfamiliar with this event, the youth will set their rocking chairs in motion in the fellowship hall through the night of January 14 into the morning of the 15th, about 15 hours total, while having fellowship, worship, and fun with their friends and leaders! This is the only major fundraiser for the Jr. High, and **you may receive a call from a youth requesting a donation; if you do, please remember these young people are about 12 years old and this may be their first fundraiser.** They will probably be nervous to talk to you to ask for a pledge, so please be patient and understanding, and support this enthusiastic and energetic group of Christ filled young people!

You may pay your pledge or donation at coffee hour on January 15 (be sure to come to the fellowship hall and check out the rockers!), or we will send you a postcard reminder the following week. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Human Relations Day

Our special offering for Human Relations Day will be January 15. “Statistics show that children of prisoners are six times more likely than other children to be incarcerated at some point in their lives.” United Methodist Church Redemption Kids Ministries in Oklahoma is seeking to turn that around. As a ministry already focused on prisoners and ex-prisoners, it was natural for Redemption to reach out to children and families. Many of these children feel alone in their struggles. Meeting children in similar circumstances helps them to cope. Your gifts to Human Relations Day provides avenues to restore relationships through ministries like Redemption Kids, a Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program; Community Developers, self-improvement programs and United Methodist Voluntary Services, a community advocacy that challenges oppression and injustice. To read additional stories of lives changed by Human Relations Day, go to www.umcgiving.org/giveHRD.

UM Senior News

The UM Senior January luncheon will be held on Monday, the 16th and our own Bob Rupp is the scheduled speaker. He will share stories about his career with the Washington State Patrol and as Sheriff of Benton County.

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 noon. Please join us for some good food, good entertainment, and always wonderful fellowship.

Winter Cornerstone 2012

Starting Tuesday January 3, Cornerstone resumes! Classes will be from 6:30-8:00 pm on Tuesday nights (with the exception of the Sing and Ring Choir; see below), following our 6 pm dinner.

These classes will be offered this winter:

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Sing and Ring Children's Choir *with Nancy Barr.*

For kids in 2nd through 5th grade, this is an awesome opportunity to glorify God and be part of a singing group. We meet beginning at 5:15 each Tuesday, finishing just in time for the Cornerstone supper!

Children's Cornerstone *with Barb and Lana.*

Stories, crafts, snacks, and great fellowship time for 5th grade and younger in the preschool room.

Childcare *with Brenda Gregory, in the babyfold.*

Teen Cornerstone *with Cynthia & Brittany, in the Youth Chapel. For youth 6th – 12th grades.*

Beginners Sewing *with Debra Reeve.*

Whether you are young or old, male or female, sewing can be a great hobby. It allows you to envision, plan, create, and complete unique clothing, projects and gifts. Let your inner artist out and learn how to sew! Class Syllabus: A general overview of sewing using basic sewing skills, starting with a hand sewing project which evolves into a machine project. Utilization of cutting and sewing tools, materials, and notions. Projects include a throw pillow, pillow case, pieced place mat or table runner, book or shopping bag, a garment (choice of skirt or pajamas pants), aprons.

Sewing machines will be provided for those who do not wish to bring one, or do not have one. Materials will be donated by the Piecemakers, but you are welcome to bring your own if you wish!

Children kindergarten age and up are welcome, attended by an adult relative or friend. Additional adult supervision will be provided by some of our Piecemakers and volunteers. **We will be using needles, cutting tools, and irons, so be forewarned!** Call Debra at 582-2163 for more details during business hours.

The Armor.net Men's Study *with Kris Kiefer.* This group is open to all men who are trying to be fishers of men while wearing the full armor of God! Come for an opportunity to grow spiritually with other men who are inspired by the word of God, and enjoy open, solid conversation about life and how to live it more fully.

Spanish to English and English to Spanish *with Sheryl Dyer*

The Spanish/English class is for English speakers who want to learn Spanish and Spanish speakers who want to learn English. We'll have a short vocabulary lesson related to a theme, a game, song, or story, and a chance to practice with a native Spanish speaker. There are no tests, no grades, and no prerequisites. If you don't know any Spanish at all or if you already speak fluent Spanish and would like to practice with a native speaker, this class is for you. It's also a good opportunity to reach out to newcomers to our community who would like to learn English.

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36 Parables *Facilitated by Mike and Kim Boice & Peggy Puryear*

For nearly 2000 years, the parables of Christ have instructed and inspired. Now, these powerful stories are re-told for today's audiences. Each DVD in the series contains short films depicting beloved parables in modern situations, thought-provoking teaching tools that capture the mind and heart. **36 Parables** helps you communicate Jesus' words powerfully and creatively. Authentic, accurate, simply stated and profoundly moving, these short films connect in ways words alone cannot. The format of the class will be to compare the parable scripture with the modern video depiction of the parable.

Stephen Ministry Training (5:15-8:00pm) The Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around your congregation. Facilitated by Pastor Mark and Sarah Longan.

Sr. UMY Snow Go!

The Senior High will be retreating to Silver Mountain on January 13-15, to enjoy the snow and simmer on some scriptures! They will spend Saturday snowboarding, skiing or tubing, eating at Wildcat pizza and swimming at the resort! Sunday's focus will be on worship and study prior to heading home. Please pray for this group as they travel, play, and pray together in the Lord!

UMW Monthly Meeting

The monthly meeting of the United Methodist Women will be held Wednesday morning, January 25, at 10:30 am in the Future Kitchen. The program will be "Call to Prayer and Self Denial." Following the program, lunch will be served by the UMW Officers. The sharing gift will be for prayer and self-denial. If you have any questions, please call Donna Troxel, UMW President, at 586-3478.

Tool Time for Cars with Jerry

Jerry Wilhelm is offering a class to teach those who are interested in learning the very basics of car/van/truck care. This is a hands-on opportunity, and will include how to check your oil, transmission fluid, tire pressure, and even how to put on your tire chains. Jerry has requested that you bring your owner's manual, but if you can't find it, don't let that keep you away.

We'll meet on Saturday, February 11, from 10 am to 1 pm in the future kitchen at the church. Lunch will be provided after the class. For more information or to sign up, please call Susan Urban at 509-554-1550 or email Susan at carolina_sea_breeze@yahoo.com.

Our Church Family

Joys and Concerns

♥ Our prayers are with Jill Berg and her family at the passing of Jill's grandmother in December.

♥ Please remember in prayer the family of Gene Hardy, who died November 28.

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- ♥ Please be in prayer for Kevin Howard and family at the passing of his grandmother, Elizabeth Shadwick.
- ♥ Congratulations to:
 - ♥ Peter Eugene Reeve was born December 14 to Zack and Katherine Reeve. Proud grandparents are Deb and Vic Reeve.
 - ♥ Ryan Steven Angelo entered the world on December 11, born to Meredith Vaughn and Jason Angelo. The proud grandparents in our congregation are Darryl and Steve Vaughn.
 - ♥ Jay and Jaelyn Esparza welcomed Annabelle Faith, born November 30.
- ♥ Please pray for these in need of healing and comfort:
Verdine Davis, Mabel Hodgson, Shirley Knox, Jolene Kuhns, Josh Pearson, Donna Shirey, Rhonda Simmelink, Marybelle Yarzombeck.

Notes of Interest

Beanies for Soldiers Project -- Last Shipment – January, 2012

Our knitted/crocheted beanies project for our soldiers in Iraq is ending. Yes, our soldiers are coming home. All beanies must be delivered to the church office **by January 15, 2012** for our final shipment.

Dolores Gilmore from St. Joseph's Catholic Church started this project in 2005 and incorporated our beanies with her shipments. Dolores died several years ago but her husband, Dick, has continued shipping our beanies. To date, the number of beanies shipped has been **10,596**.

Thank you to all the members who supported this project with their talent, prayers and donations toward postage. It is only fitting that I recognize and thank ALL the ladies who have made beanies over these seven years:

Jean Barlen
Ruth Benson
Linda Davis
Beth Halsey
Grace Landis
Nancy Phillips
Pat Walker

Kathryn Barr
Dorothy Block
Allison Edwards
Diane Hansen
Rebekah Lodge
Sharon Varzendah
Gloria Weible

Mary Lou Burgess
Vicki Crosby
Mary Gaden
June James
Betty Oliver
Darlene Triner
Norma Williams

In memory:

Mildred Baker
Betty Curtis

Ellen Chapman
Bernice Denny

Lucille Cloninger
Lorraine Doyle

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Sally Hare
Shirley Painter

Enid Koch

Charlotte Washburn

My last shipment in January to our soldiers will include beanies with letters tucked inside from Mrs. Windy Negrete's 2nd grade class at St. Joseph's Catholic School. The children participating in this program are:

Cytherea Abella
Leanna Darner
Aeden Grandinetti
Joshua Perez
Christopher Yniguez

Adam Baerlocher
Jacob Gamino
Brian Jada
Millie Retterer
Abigail Beaton

Mary Crites
Zoe Rhodes
Ty Thomas
Christina Valdez

Note: For those of you who wish to continue knitting and crocheting, you may contact Louise Hafer (586-5056) who is coordinator for the Canyon Lakes Manor Project Warm-Up. Items needed are: chemo caps (soft yarn), hats for kids, scarves, mittens, and lap robes. Some yarn is provided.

****Beanies to the Church Office by January 15, 2012****

Thank you again,
Phyllis Koschik, Coordinator
Beanies for Soldiers

Upcoming Events at The Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy offers support, education, and resources for anyone in the community who has experienced loss through the death of someone close to them.

Specially trained professionals in grief and loss help individuals identify and attend to their unique grieving needs.

Survivors of Suicide

Jan. 9, 2012, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

SOS helps people adjust after the suicide of a loved one. We recognize that each survivor has his or her own sorrows and need for support and understanding. Some people come to SOS soon after the suicide; others come years later. All are welcome.

Coming to Terms with Loss

Jan. 10, 2012, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

This group is open to adults experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one. This group is for persons who have experienced a significant loss and is educational as well as supportive.

Widowed Support Group

Jan. 11, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30 pm or 6:00 - 7:30 pm

This group provides support and education for widows, widowers and partners who have lost a loved one. In addition to exploring grief issues and the ways that grief affects individuals, there will be discussion on topics centered around role changes and transitions.

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Pre-registration for these groups is required. Please call our office at 783-7416 for more information.

Spiritual Caregiving Program

The Chaplaincy is excited to announce that the launching of a brand new Spiritual Caregiving Program. This outreach program will train and equip church-sponsored volunteers to provide spiritual care among congregants and in community settings such as nursing homes, jails, and homeless shelters. This ten-week training program is for those who have the desire and time to minister to persons in spiritual distress and relational isolation.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please discuss it with your pastor. For additional information, please contact Bill Lotz at (509)438-4440.

News from Lazy F

Family Winter Camp!

When?

17-19 February 2012

How much?

\$315 Skyline Cabin - rooms with 4 beds, private bath & linen

\$290 Ridgeview Cabin - rooms with 4 beds

Why?

It's a great opportunity for your family to play together, pray together, and grow together. Our two leaders from last year, Kelly Dahlman-Oeth and Brad Beeman, will lead us in worship, games, and fun. We have spots for only 16 families, so make sure to register soon!

Visit www.lazyfcamp.org for more information on our winter programs and to download a registration form.

Volunteering Opportunities

Assembly of Lazy F Ambassadors (A.L.F.A)

We are currently in the process of recruiting a team of Lazy F Representatives who will be known as the Assembly of Lazy F Ambassadors. We are looking for adults and youth volunteers who are passionate about camp to volunteer their time to provide that personal touch that Lazy F strives to achieve, educating their church about camping opportunities and the impact that camping ministries can have in our lives. There will be training for ALFA members on January 21 at Lazy F. Ambassadors will come together as a united team to train on how to present opportunities to churches and communities. We are excited for this initiative which we hope will be fun and exciting to be a part of and will help to rebuild the lives of churches. For more information or an application form, please contact program@lazyfcamp.org.

If you have any questions, contact Jenni and Ian Ridpath, at 509-962-2780 or program@lazyfcamp.org. The Lazy F website is found at www.lazyfcamp.org.

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News from Njukinjiru

Dear Rev. Roger

Warm Christian greetings to you, your family, the church and all our friends in the mighty name of Lord Jesus Christ.

God is ever good and merciful to his people. I received your message on 21/11/11 and I was so delighted to hear that you have sent financial gift to our people. Praise be to God. Thank you again and again a million times for your continued support of God's people through his inspired Ministry.

We cashed the money on 23/11/11 with Mr. Solomon Kiogora reported to the church on Sunday 27/11/11, prayed for you. Your church and for God's Ministry we distributed the funds as per your wish, see attached receipt from Gachanka MCK receipt from Kirige day secondary school and a letter of appreciation for Emily Kawira's mother, as for Solomon we agreed to send you a note of greeting and appreciations.

All the parties appreciated your Godly deed. Church leader met after the church service and after a lengthy discussion they resolved to take 4 youth and one middle aged man to a music course at Nkubu Seminary with the funds you sent to us (Kshs 12,471), which will take place from 7th December to 17th Dec. This is miraculous because we were thinking of taking two people to that course but with your support we're more than grateful.

We were in dare need of keyboard operators because the ones who were operating one got a job at Nairobi and the other one went for further studies. Njukinjiru community and the country at large. We thank God mighty for giving us enough rain. We have planted food crops and we are expecting good harvest God willing.

Currently we are very busy clearing weeds for the crops in our shambas that is why there were some delays in checking the mails in town where there are computers. Us we are preparing for christmas and New Year, the church has organized a Revival gathering in the church and we have invited surrounding churches and community at large. See table schedule and the topics attached.

Please pray for his revival gathering to be a success and for God to revive his people and return to his glory.

From Nelson Kamaki

Don't forget the Un-Decorating Party on January 8!!! Plan to stay after second service on the 8th to help put away all the beautiful Christmas decorations in the church. They come down much faster than they go up, and with many hands, it will be done in no time. Afterward, we'll gather at Hubby's for pizza! Your help will be appreciated.

***Kennewick First United
Methodist Church
Worship Services***

Alternative Service - 9 am
Sunday School – 9 am
Traditional Service - 10:30 am

Nursery provided at each service
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8 am - noon and 1 – 4 pm
Monday through Thursday
8 am – noon, Friday

(509) 582-2163

Visit our website at
www.kennewickfirst.com

Free Firewood

A large sycamore tree will be taken down at the parsonage - the tree was damaged and is creating a hazard to the parsonage. A professional tree removal organization will remove it, cut it into 16" rounds, and place it outside the fence along the street. Most of the wood will need to be split. Maybe someone could organize a splitting operation of the rounds and stack in a pile for others to pick up. Good workout time! Tree removal is planned for early January and all wood removal must be completed by March 1st or before. Cost of removing the wood by the tree removal group is \$150.00. The thought is that there may be some in the church who could better utilize it. Questions? Call Ron Shuck 528-1119.

*Articles for the February 2012
Clarion will be due by January 16.*



First United Methodist Church
Corner of Dayton St. & Kennewick Ave.
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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